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TAGS: [PREL](#) [UN](#) [UNMIK](#) [YI](#) [KV](#) [MU](#)

SUBJECT: OMAN DEFERS DECISION ON RECOGNIZING KOSOVO  
INDEPENDENCE

REF: MUSCAT 154

Classified By: Ambassador Gary A. Grappo for Reasons 1.4 (b, d)

(C) During a March 19 meeting with Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Yusef bin Alawi, the Ambassador again encouraged the government of Oman to quickly recognize the independence of Kosovo. Bin Alawi replied that Oman wished the Kosovar people well and sympathized with the many problems they have faced. He also noted that he recently had a "good discussion" with Albanian Foreign Minister Luzlim Basha at the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit in Senegal about Kosovo, including whether it had the economic ability to sustain itself as an independent nation. However, bin Alawi stated that Oman will not make a decision on recognizing Kosovo for the time being. The subject was simply too contentious for the government to weigh in on at the present time, he asserted, particularly since it did not directly involve Oman. Bin Alawi added that with the possible exception of Saudi Arabia, he believed that the rest of the GCC was equally indecisive on whether or when to recognize Kosovo.

GRAPPO